

Inside Wallops

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Goddard Space Flight Center
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First Series of Rockets Launched in the Winter 2007 Alaska Campaign



Photos courtesy of Hyojin Kim

The weather was perfect and aurora activity was good for launching rockets at the Poker Flat Research Range, Alaska, early Friday morning, January 19.

Dr. Miguel Larsen, principal investigator and professor at Clemson University, had been waiting for these conditions to launch four rockets carrying the JOULE II experiments.

The NASA sounding rockets, two Terrier Orions, a Black Brant V and a Terrier Black Brant, were launched in pairs.

The first pair was launched one minute apart, followed 15 minutes later by the second pair, also launched one minute apart.

Each series consisted of one rocket with instruments to read the detailed structure of the electrical currents within the aurora, while a second rocket released a visible tracer of trimethyl aluminum vapor to measure the winds and turbulence 60 to 120 miles above Earth.

A fifth rocket scheduled for launch during the January window is still waiting for launch conditions. A Black Brant XII will carry an experiment to study pulsating aurora for a team of researchers from the University of New Hampshire, Durham.

During the second launch window in February, five more rockets will be launched for researchers from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.



Waiting for launch from Poker Flat Research Range.

We remember and honor their legacy.....We remember and honor their legacy.....

Apollo 1

On January 27, 1967, tragedy struck the Apollo program when a flash fire occurred in command module 012 during a launch pad test of the Apollo/Saturn space vehicle being prepared for the first piloted flight, the AS-204 mission. Three astronauts, Lt. Col. Virgil I. Grissom, a veteran of Mercury and Gemini missions; Lt. Col. Edward H. White, the astronaut who had performed the first United States extravehicular activity during the Gemini program; and Roger B. Chaffee, an astronaut preparing for his first space flight, died in this tragic accident.

Challenger

The Space Shuttle Challenger's crew of seven astronauts died in the explosion of their spacecraft during the launch of STS-51-L on January 28, 1986, from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The explosion occurred 73 seconds into the flight, as a result of a leak in one of two Solid Rocket Boosters that ignited the main liquid fuel tank. The crew of STS-51-L included Mike Smith, Dick Scobee, Ron McNair, Ellison S. Onizuka, Christa McAuliffe, Greg Jarvis, and Judith A. Resnik.

Columbia

Space Shuttle Columbia, STS-107 mission lifted off on January 16, 2003, for a 17-day science mission. Upon reentering the atmosphere on February 1, 2003, the Columbia orbiter suffered a catastrophic failure. The orbiter and its seven crewmembers, Rick D. Husband, William C. McCool, David Brown, Laurel Blair Salton Clark, Michael P. Anderson, Ilan Ramon, and Kalpana Chawla) were lost approximately 15 minutes before Columbia was scheduled to touch down at Kennedy Space Center.

Summer Interns

Summer will soon be here and with it high school and university students wishing to expand their knowledge and gain experience in science, math, engineering and technology careers at Wallops.

In the past we have not generally included faculty internships, however, consider opportunities that might be of interest to faculty members doing research on sabbaticals. We are beginning to get an interest in this area as we expand our relationships with universities in the region.



Internships can make a difference in a student's future. Please give consideration to being a mentor this summer.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor for an intern during the summer, contact Ed Parrott at x1681 or by email: Edward.D.Parrott.1@gsfc.nasa.gov

Mentoring Program

The Wallops Mentoring Program provides an opportunity for employees to benefit from developing a mentoring relationship or adding structure to an existing one.

It also creates opportunities for frequent and open interaction between employees at different organizational levels, provides relationship-building activities to share organizational knowledge and serves as a vehicle for transferring technical and formal and informal organizational knowledge.

Applications are being accepted for the 2007 Wallops Mentoring Program.

If you're interested in becoming a mentor or mentee, go to the Mentoring Connection web page at <http://www.mentoringconnection.com> and sign up.

If you are currently a mentor or mentee and plan on participating again, you'll only need to email the Training Connection at: jcunninghamTTC@comcast.net.

Your information will be transferred and a new user ID and password will be issued.

An information session is scheduled for January 23 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Building E-2 Training Room.

For further information or assistance call Rich Billger at x2394.

Investment Day at the Credit Union

January 23
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Building N-133

NASA Federal Credit Union invites you to attend Investment Day and begin thinking about your short- and long-term financial dreams.

Erdal Elmas, Financial Advisor registered through CUSO Financial Services, L.P., will be available to meet with employees on a one-on-one basis to discuss traditional and alternative investment strategies, asset allocations and portfolio review, retirement planning, rollovers and IRA transfers, college funding and more. There is no cost or obligation.

To schedule a one-hour appointment or to learn more, call 1-888-NASA-FCU, ext. 650.

Career Navigational Tools

January 24
11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
E-2, Williamsburg Room

Guest Speaker - Orlando Figueroa
Director of Applied Engineering and Technology
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Sponsored by the Women of Wallops, Federal Women's Program. For further information contact Jessica Thompson at x1080.

ESCC Spring Schedule

Eastern Shore Community College Continuing & Community Education Classes for Professional Development, Adult Education/GED, Technical Training, Leisure Learning and Computer Skills is available at:

<https://webdrive.gsfc.nasa.gov/longauth/200/Terry.A..Ewell/Ra6IxoC>

You have until February 16, 2007, to download the file.

Use the following to login:

username = ESCC

password = spring 2007

For further information about courses or scheduling contact Roy Lock, Program Coordinator, Continuing & Community Education at Eastern Shore Community College, 757 789-1751.

American Red Cross

Blood Drive

January 24, 2007

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Building F-3, Rocket Club

To schedule an appointment: Go to www.givelife.org The code for donors is Wallops.

We're less than halfway to the goal of 32 donors. Let's go all out to surpass the goal.



Questions? Call the Health Unit x1266

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

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